Ypsilanti - Depot Town
12/1982

"ALL THE NEWS YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW"

FREE

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

November 1982

Depot Town Association
Next regular meeting
Thurs **November 18** 7:30 p.m
In DTA CABOOSE
400 Market Place

Depot Town Retail Marchants
Next regular meeting
Tues, **November 16** 7:30 p.m

RAG REPORT

The more things change, the more they remain the same:

In 1890, downtown Ypsilanti boasted the largest business district between Detroit and Chicago and undoubtedly, with its outstanding architecture and proud merchants, the most beautiful. Business was brisk. Socially, downtown Ypsilanti was *it*. Put on your best, take the horse and buggy down dirt covered Michigan Avenue, walk across the boardwalks, and visit the shops.

Familiar faces, first-name basis, warm regards were authentacious.

Encouraged by violent winters and temperamental springs, the Downtown merchants joined forces in the erecting of a continuous wooden awning the length of the buildings to provide protection to their customers and their storefronts. Some criticized the canopies for covering up the beauty of the buildings, but all agreed to their function.

Short years later, the wooden canopies themselves became victim to the weather. Now badly splintered and dryrotted, what was once the finest stretch of buildings in this part of the state had become an eyesore. Downtown was losing its appeal.

City Council intervened by insisting that the canopies come down. The mayor and his council wanted Downtown Ypsilanti to restore the buildings to their original grandeur. The merchants refused and the battle raged between merchants and property owners and the City. Both sides were quoted daily in the *Ypsilantian*.

Months passed with little or no progress until the city council, acting in the best interest of all, did what it thought it had to do. On November 3, 1899, at midnight, after the city streets were deserted, the mayor and council directed city workers in the removal and destruction of the canopies. Working through the night, the vigilantes had completed their task and were long gone by the time the merchants arrived to begin their days.

We can only imagine leaving O'Brien's Pub after last call and seeing George Goodman, Nat Edmunds and Jane Byrd overseeing the DPW removing the metal facades on Downtown buildings. Such a ploy would never work today, not with lawyers advertising in the TV Guide and operating out of the local Sear's, but a much more practical, or at the very least *positive* approach might be by example.

The Historic Commission and the rest of the city bodies operate out of what could be the least attractive building Downtown—City Hall, or the old Ypsilanti Savings Bank Building. Perhaps if the City were to tear down that garish aluminum facade and renovate its own house, others would see the feasibiliy of such a project and, ideally, jump on the bandwagon. We certainly don't pretend to know where the money would come from, though we assume, at the very least, that the City may apply for similar low-interest loans that were available to private property owners.

Somebody is going to *have* to make the first move. The good people of Ypsilanti, would love to once again put on their best, admire and be proud of our City's architectural assets, and share the pride.

Bev and Don Shankwiler—how about if you two buy a building downtown . . . .

HERITAGE FEST PROVIDES ANNUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPOT TOWN

Autumn seems to be the time for Depot Towners to review their involvement in the annual Heritage Festival and begin plans toward the next. How the Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival has changed in its first four years! We can now depend on an excess of 100,000 folks touring this district annually and, so far, we've been able to regale the Depot Town well-wishers with a huge, new attraction each year, whether it be outside attractions such as the Great Wallendas and the Franzen Brothers Circus, or such local features as the new sidewalks and renovation in this old railroad commercial district, the Farmers' Market, or the rehabilitation of Riverside Park.

Each big neighborhood project carries with it its own sense of grief and tribulation for those involved — lack of electricity, no grass seed, dust, mud, rain, cold, etc. — but for our annual tourist and visitor the results are graphic and positive. Those who see us only once each year are cheered by our progress and single-minded attention to the long-range goal of preserving the neighborhood and enhancing its business climate.

Crowds packed this old neighborhood

As we gear up for the fifth, 1983, Heritage Festival, we wonder what new problems will accompany that celebration. Will the MCRR Depot restaurant be ready for use yet? Will the Cross Street bridge be removed, replaced, or in progress? Could Ypsilanti survive a "split festival" with events on both idess of the Huron River not connected by a Cross Street bridge? Nothing is static in this community, except, perhaps the opportunity to meet new challenges.

The 1983 Festival Committee begins meeting soon to make plans for next year and dynamic, hard workers are encouraged to make their interest and ability known to Ann Hittler, director of the Visitor and Convention Bureau (994-4920).

SPECIAL THANKS AND CONGRATUBATIONS for the success of the 1982 Heritage Festival go to the following Depot Towners who worked hard to make their portions of the event so happy and exciting:

Judy Andrews and *Carolyn McKeever* for placing more than three hundred arts and crafts exhibitors and demonstrators throughout Depot Town and Riverside Park. Thanks to their committee also, for helping to screen, place and evaluate the exhibition.

Gary McKeever and *Renee Hochradel* for directing the second Great Train Race in which hundreds of competitive runners endeavored to circle the course before the Chicago-bound AMtrak passenger train roared through the block.

John Waite for arranging special AMtrak excursion stops from Detroit and Dearborn to the Festival site in Depot Town.

John Delcamp and *Tom Dodd* for producing eighteen free entertainments on the beautiful new Riverside Park stage suspended over the Huron River.

Jerry Meadows for his resurrection of "Professor Malarkey", the patent medicine huckster who panders his sasparilla in front of the Health Emporium.

The Ypsilanti Players, (recently headquartered in this block) for their period

Cont. on 4

RAGTIME

• Those who have noticed agree that the new turn-of-the-century reproduction street lamps installed in Riverside Park are outstanding. Each lamp has a shatterproof lexan globe with seperate electrical outlets for use at special events. So how come they're never turned on?

• Depot Town Merchants — see Joe at Hon's Flowers and Fancies to place your order for evergreen roping to string across your building; hopefully in time for Victorian Christmas. Wholesale price are $14 per 30' of roping and you can order any length. Let's really *spruce* up the block this year!

• Congratulations to Jackie Leonard of Jacqueline's Boutique, and Nancy Cudney. Farmer's Market manager. Jackie had a baby girl named Leisha on October 5th, and on September 29th, Nancy gave birth to Tommy, her 4th boy! Well, that's the infield...

• What? A Rag without a bridge story? Never! This Spring, the Cross Street Bridge will be demolished for construction of a new one. Flyers showing alternate routes into Depot Town will be distributed to merchants to hand out to customers within the next month or so. Maybe a ferry crossing the Huron every hour?

• Guess who and what was featured in the Ypsilanti Press' Sunday Profile on August 28th Yep. The Rag Staff and this monthly monthly. Honest! But more recently, the October 31st Sunday Profile was about Depot Town's Beverly Shankwiler, focusing on Bev's feelings about this old block, her artwork, and her recent one woman show at bowling Green State University's Fine arts Department. "For a while" said Bev, "I thought Depot Town was art, and maybe in the first year (that she and Don were here) it was. But a community can't stay 'art' too long. It has to be economically viable and deal with political issues. It's not such an autonomous situation as creating a sculpture."

• Last winter we had a big problem with accomulating ice in the open space between Jim MacDonald's Antiques and the Eagle's hall. Let'S SEE IF WE CAN'T COME UP WITH A SOLUTION EARLY THIS YEAR BEFORE THE "glacier of '83" tAKES FORM.

"How Ypsilanti's Architecture fits into the 19th Century Scene" will be the topic of a lecture-seminar by EMU professor Robert Shweitzer November 14th at the Masonic Temple on N. Huron at 5:00 p.m.

A roast beef dinner will prelude the seminar and is included in the ticket price of $5.00. Sponsored by the Ypsilanti Historical Society, further info maybe had by calling 482-4990.

• Three new business have opened in Depot Town and next month's Rag will present the lowdown on the highlights of all — "When In Doubt" cards and gifts at 23 E. Cross, Rich's Cabinetry at 412 N. River, and Theo and Kate's "Take 5 Cafe" in the freight House.

• Available now at the Ypsilanti Museum — birdseye photographs of Ypsilanti, cc 1865 for $10.00, and available again is "The Story of Ypsilanti," covering the founding of Ypsilanti through about 1900. Highly recommended.

• Jim Westin, a.k.a. "The Phantom of The Attic," shows off one of his latest coups, a 1949 Donald Duck comic featuring a character named Professor Cornelius McCobb, from the University of Ypsilanti!

• We've had a lot of requests, but we're gonna do them anyways department:

The John DeLorean bumper sticker; "I brake for Narcs."

The horn is a DeLorean: instead of honk-honk, it goes toot-toot.

The John DeLorean burger: $1.75. With a coke, $900.00

O.K. One more. What song did John DeLorean sing in prison? "Brother, can you spare a dime bag."

• To all our friends and neighbors — have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

RAG RAFFLE RESULTS

Thanks to all who helped the *Rag* by purchasing a raffle ticket during the Heritage Festival. Your dollar was well spent.

The drawing was held on August 29 at the close of the Depot Town Jazz Competition. The winner of the color TV donated by Huron Valley T.V. was Sam Dyer, and the ten-speed bicycle donated by the Sidetrack Bar and Ypsi Cycle was won by Diane Kerr.

Well, *Rag*, you've squeaked by for another few months!

Those wishing to donate additional money may do so by sending a check to Depot Town Rag, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti 48197. Letters, ideas, and Christmas presents may also be sent to the above address. Thanks again, and congratulations to the winners!

Holiday Artist's Market

About 30 exhibitors are expected to participate in the 2nd annual *Holiday Artist's Market* Sunday, December 5 in the Freight House. Atists in several mediums will offer their wares for sale including paintings, jewelery, stained glass, ceramics, woods and textiles in all price ranges.

The Take 5 coffee shop will be open and a classical guitarist will provide entertainment. There will also be a raffle with special gift prizes awarded. This is a great opportunity to get some early Christmas shopping done, while supporting local artists. The Artist's Market will be open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. See you there!

Hon's
Flowers and Fancies
46 E. Cross 482-2124

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD
GOOD DRINKS
GOOD TIMES
Old Town
RESTAURANT

Olde Towne
Coin & Gold
18 E. CROSS STREET
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(313) 483-6155

"We serve the arts."
RIVER ART WORKS
Professional Matting and Framing
Photo Restoration
Gallery of Local Artists
Workshops
482-8785
50 E. Cross, Ypsilanti
Open Tues. Sat., 10-8 p.m.
Fri. 10-6 p.m.

SALOON
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B & D RETAIL
PLUMBING & HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICE
• STEM REPLACEMENT & FAUCET REPAIR
• SEWER CLEANING
WATER SOFTENERS SALES & SERVICE
13 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI

J & J Plaster
Craft Studio
21 E. Cross Street
Learn a new hobby - no firing necessary
PLAQUES — STATUES — LAMPS

HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
Jim Mac Donald's
ANTIQUES
Located in Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town

IKE'S DEPOT TOWN
BARBER
SHOP

YPSILANTI RECYCLING CENTER

Something in Depot Town that we should all be proud of and deserves another "plug" is the Ypsilanti, Recycling Center, located on Rice Street, east of Frog Island off Forest. Since April of 1980, the Center has processed 10 tons of metal, 226 tons of paper, 3 tons of cardboard, 45 tons of glass, and 1,575 gallons of oil. Hats off to this areas effort to recycle and aid the environment.

The Center reminds local businesses that recycling not only will help the environment, but can also be beneficial from a financial standpoint. As most businesses must pay for rubbish removal, the more successful they become; the higher the trash removal rates. A weekly trip to the Recycling Center makes cents.

All cardboard boxes are to be broken down and placed into the largest box

Cans (310, vegetable, fruit, syrup, etc.) should be rinsed, flattened and stacked in extra cardboard boxes.

Glass jars can be rinsed out and stacked in boxes.

The rest is a short drive to the recycling center, where helpful volunteers are there to help you unload every Wednesday and Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

12/1982

Count Jeff mesmerizes crowd

3-D CREATURE OUT FOR THE COUNT

The Freight House turned into the Fright House as about 200 people celebrated Halloween a week early with the *Creature From the Black Lagoon in 3-D* hosted by Depot Town's own Count Jeff.

Fifty kids were admitted free to the October 24 matinee courtesy of Depot Town Merchants, and the show was repeated at 8 p.m.

Appearing from a cloud of smoke to the strains of the Rolling Stones, Count Jeff welcomed the audience to the Freight House and introduced the 1st half of the movie. At the intermission, the Count reappeared after falling into a crowd of angry chickens to introduce the Draculets, three young ladies from Transylvania making their first U.S. appearance.

At the end of the movie, C.J. thanked all for coming as he crept into his smoke filled coffin for a long rest.

"Vell," said the Count. "Another day, another donor."

MILLER MOTORS ANNOUNCES MERGER

Boy, have we got great news! Our good friends Jack Miller and Carolyn Heliker have announced plans that they will marry within a year! Congratulations to two outstanding people, and . . . what's this? We feel a song coming on. . .

Jack Miller works by the train rails;
His devotion to work it now pales.
For with his new bride;
Carolyn Heliker, his pride;
We can see how Miller's motor sails!
The best from all of us!

ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross

FORBES the finest
PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING

DEPOT TOWN VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Depot Town's holiday season will be heralded in style on Sunday, November 28, as Depot Town hosts our 2nd Victorian Christmas Open House. This delightful annual event originated with Joe Wizhauer of Hon's Florist some 15 years ago when he was at his W. Cross location. Last year Joe shared his open house idea with his new Depot Town neighbors, some of whom offered refreshments and/or special sales out of their shops, while dressed in victorian style garb.

Victorian Christmas 1982 will be bigger and better with more participating merchants and more activities, but with none of the ostentatious holiday hype or a-mall-ing commercialism reserved for the big shopping centers like *Buyerwood*. Low-key, quaint, and charming. That's us!

Most Depot Town shops will be offering refreshments and various specials throughout this special day for friends and customers and encourage you to stop by and visit.

Santa Clause just may pop in, too, as he'll be making his first area appearance throughout the day accompanied with his right hand, Christmas Carol. At 2 p.m. he will be at the Freight House Coffee Shop to hear the Christmas wishes of neighborhood kids and pose for pictures taken by Bill Gosa of Depot Town's Cosa's Creative Photography.

Just prior to that, Santa Claus will be at the D.T.A. Caboose with Nancy Cudney as they instruct kids in the making of home-made Christmas ornaments—popcorn strings, bird seed pouches and more—and then trim the tree located in the planter at River and E. Cross.

From 3:30 'til dark, Banbury Cross Horse and Carriage will be offering horse and buggy rides (or sleigh rides, if there's you-know-what on the ground) for 50 cents and $1. Banbury Cross has been featured on P.M. Magazine and was a popular attraction at Ypsilanti's October Apple Festival. Owner John Hopkins has generously offered a percentage of his profit to the D.T.A. Merchant's Committee.

Lending to the holiday atmosphere will be the Ypsilanti Boy's and Girl's Club, who have agreed to join the activities and serenade us all with Christmas carols. If there aree any other community groups who would like to come down and sing, you're invited!. Call 483-6925 and we'll make arrangements.

Also at both 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. a free lecture/seminar will be presented by the Director of the Consultation and Learning Center, Neil Simon. The topic is *Gift-Giving: What's in a Gift?*

Other possible events include an antique bicycle collection displayed in the Freight House, as well as a lot of spur-of-the-moment excitement. Please join us for Victorian Christmas November 28, and enjoy the holidays as they were meant to be.

WANNA WAGER WHICH WINDOW WILL WIN??

Depot Town Merchants! In accordance with the Victorian Christmas celebration, there will be a storefront and window display competition with prizes awarded for the winning categories. Three unbiased judges with impeccable taste, undisputed integrity, and unfailing good nature were needed and, yes, we *all* qualify, but it was Tom Dodd, Carolyn McKeever and Gerry Meadows who volunteered.

Rumors are rampant of prizes ranging from trips to the Bahamas, a ranch mink jacket (Bonz—what is a *ranch* mink jacket?), three rooms of carpeting, and every record album ever offered on Channel 50, but those are only rumors and the judges will probably come up with something cheap and clever as hell!

Plans are to announce the *artiste of the east* on the eve of the Victorian Christmas Open House, so start planning your holiday decorating now!

The Rag Staff:
Steve Gross, Editor 482-1780
Sally & Rex Richie, 485-7546

JAZZ SERIES SOARS AGAIN

Hard to believe, but the 2nd Annual Depot Town/WEMU Jazz Series is set to begin on December 11. The main change in this year's program will be four shows instead of six, and creating a more comfortable atmosphere by limiting the amount of tickets. The quality of the jazz and blues is as strong as ever.

Welcoming everyone back to the Freight House on December 11 will be the Lymon Woodard Organization, followed by The Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra on January8. February 12 will feature both Roy Brooks and The Artistic Truth, plus the Eddie Burns Blues Band. To climax the Series, the world famous Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band will melt whatever snow remains on the Freight House roof on March 12

Ticket sales are being limited to 550 per show and are available now as season tickets for all four shows.

Given the big crowds at the last year's series and the fantastic word of mouth (half the concerts were complete to-the-wall sellouts) we believe there's a strong possibility that all tickets may sell before the first show. Literally hundreds of people were turned away at the door last year, so buy your tickets early. Order blanks are all over town, or send your check or money order payable to Depot Town Jazz to WEMU, 426 King Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

The entire series cost is $20, or only $18 if your order is in by November 15. The ticket order deadline is December 3. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and quantity of season tickets requested with your order.

Refreshments will be available at all shows, and, of course, the Depot Town volunteer bartenders will see to your imbibing pleasure.

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in Depot Town! The Depot Town Merchants are not only sponsoring the Victorian Christmas Open House '82, but many are offering specials, gifts, discounts, and scrumptious treats on that very special day.

We're proud of our neighborhood; its beautiful architecture, and the spirit of cooperation we all share. At this holiday season we would like to thank you for your patronage and extend our invitation to come to Depot Town November 28 and celebrate with us!

•**Depot Exchange Antiques** 54 E. Cross
Steve and Linda are giving copies of the Tri State Trader's Antique Shop Guide for the Midwest free, "while they last."

•**River Art Works** 50 E. Cross
Paul and Count Jeff offer 10 percent off the matte on orders placed during the open house.

•**Hon's Florist** 46 E. Cross
Don't forget to stop in and thank Joe for Victorian Christmas—a great idea! He will have his shop beautifully decorated and will be offering refreshments.

•**Miller's Ice Cream** 42 E. Cross
Rex and Sally are dishing up a special sundae and a very special price. Who says nobody "dips" anymore?

•**Old Town REstaurant** 36 E. Cross
John will offer a tasty prime rib dinner with all the trimmings for only $5.95. The pumpkin pie is on him!

•**Gosa's Creative Photography Studio** 6 E. Cross
Bill will be taking photos of your kids with Santa at the Freight House from 2:30 p.m. 'til 6 p.m. for only $3.50. He'll also include a free gift certificate.

•**Rosemary's Corner** 15 E. Cross
Learn to make a lovely ribbon ornament and Rosie will supply the materials from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sign up in advance as space is limited.

•**The Health Emporium** 19 E. Cross
The packers have creative gift ideas plus a 10 percent discount off everything except dairy products. Or just stop by for coffee and cookies!

•**The Plaster Craft Shop** 21 E. Cross
Jim is holding a drawing at 3 p.m. for a great whiteware statue to paint yourself. Stop by for details.

•**When In Doubt** 23 E. Cross
Sue and Joanie, the new kids in town, are also celebrating the grand opening of their new card and gift shop. They are offering refreshments and a 10 percent discount on all merchandise.

•**Jim MacDonald's Antiques and Apple Annies** 29 E. Cross
Bring in the coupon from the Victorian Christmas Flyer and Jim and Lynn will knock 15 percent off anything in the shop!

•**Take 5 Cafe** in the Farmer's Market Freight House
Theo and Kate will offer their freshly roasted coffees and select quality teas at one-third off the regular price, with the ad in the Victorian Christmas Flyer.

This list is by no means complete, as many other businesses will be open on November 28, offering special deals and very special wishes for a fine holiday season.

Jacqueline's Boutique
gently used women's clothes
25 E. Cross St 483-8150

THE
HEALTH EMPORIUM
To your good health —
for your nutritional needs
19 E. Cross Street 485-2711

Depot Mailbox
AND
Rosemary's
Corner
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(313) 485-4994
15 E. Cross

Cut out and mail to: D.T.A. 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip ____

Associate membership $10
Business/Property $25
Sustaining $100

JOIN THE D.T.A.
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

production of "Burlesque".

Nancy Cudney and *Betty Keefe* for their continued excellence in the management of the Farmers' Market, the corn roast, and what is, for many, a first introduction to this high class Jazz Festival and Beer Tent. This has become a locally-generated highligh to of the Festival and is destined to be the newest tradition in the block.

Grace Sweeney and *Andy* (of George Huron Inn) for hosting the Festival workers' afterglow party on Sunday evening.

The *Historic East Side Association* (our residential neighbors to the east) for keeping such a high profile and establishing their identity as a real neighborhood organization with publications, program and pizzaz.

Old Town Restaurant, the *Sidetrack*, *Rosemary's Corner* and *Aubree's Saloon* for the generosity and contribution to the Yesteryear Alliance, which helps in large part to finance this enourous undertaking.

The Chamber of Commerce reports more than $280,000 in sales generated by the most recent Festival, and certainly that success has been found right here, in Depot Town. Any business or property owner who has experienced this annual event and did not know how to contribute to its continuation may make their support known by contacting DTA president, Carolyn McKeever (483-4256) or the Yesteryear Alliance through the offices of the Chamber of Commerce (482-4920).

One of the great thrills of this year's Festival was seeing so many new folks wearing the T-shirts made available by the Ypsilanti Savings Bank proclaiming, "I'm Proud to be From Ypsilanti!" So are we in Depot Town, proud to be part of Ypsilanti's success. Yes, we'll even make it if the bridge is down next year.

depot town
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48197